



The President's Daily Brief

2 December 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

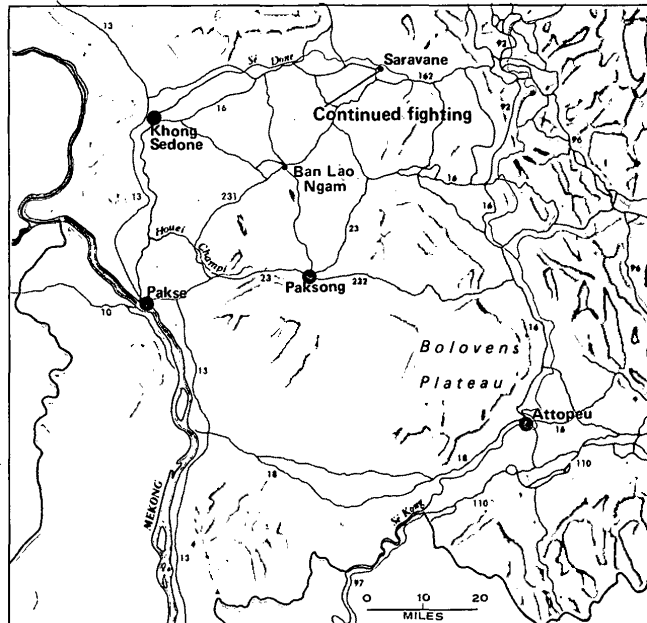
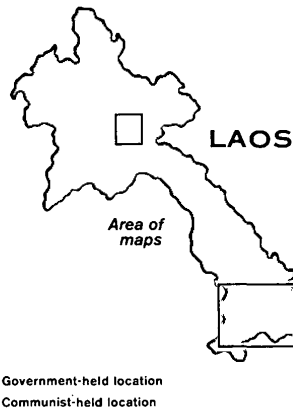
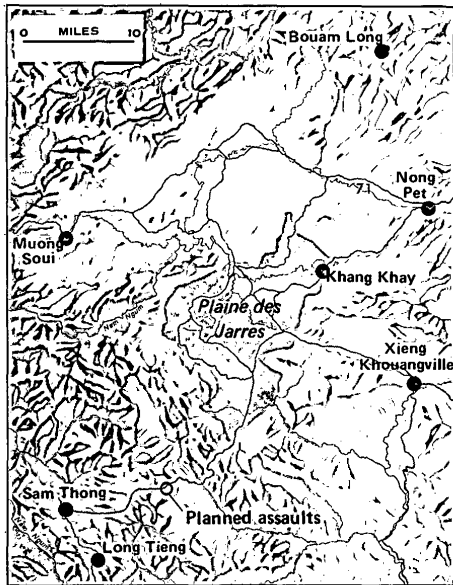
The Communists may be preparing to attack Lao Government bases around the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 1)

The USSR has adopted new regulations on emigration of Jews. (Page 2)

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LAOS

The Communists may be preparing to break the three-week lull in fighting around the Plaine des Jarres.

Intercepts suggest that at least two North Vietnamese battalions plan strong assaults in the next few days on government positions about seven miles east of Sam Thong, the former refugee center near Long Tieng. Other Communist units appear to be preparing for an attack on Bouam Long, the government's only significant base north of the Plaine.

The North Vietnamese have also begun a major supply push. Intercepts of 28 November reveal that 60 to 70 vehicles are scheduled to arrive "each night" at a transshipment facility which handles supplies destined for north Laos. A few days earlier, 250 tons of ammunition and explosives and over 100 tons of food were en route.

In the south, North Vietnamese troops moved into Saravane on 30 November following a heavy shelling attack and are now battling for control of the town, which has changed hands three times in the past month. The Communist counterattack followed a week of sharp skirmishing as reinforcements from the North Vietnamese 968th Division moved into the area.

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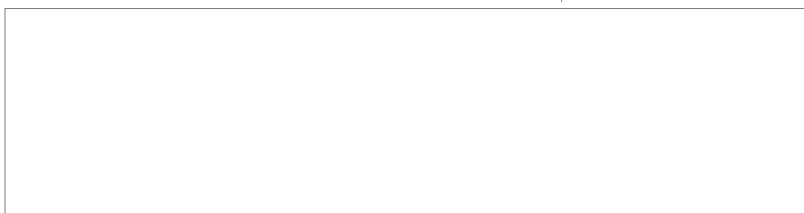
USSR

A Soviet Jew who visited the Moscow visa office of the Ministry of the Interior in late November saw new emigration regulations posted there. He told a US Embassy officer that in substance the regulations restrict the right to apply for exit visas to those with close relatives already abroad. "Close relatives" were defined as father, mother, brother, sister, son, or daughter.

Previously, Jews had been permitted to leave on the basis of having any relative abroad or having an "official" invitation from the Israeli Government. Such relatively lax restrictions had up to now permitted several hundred Jews per week to emigrate. The new limitations may be an alternative to the controversial education tax that the Soviets imposed in August. This tax aroused widespread protest abroad and may now be allowed to lapse.

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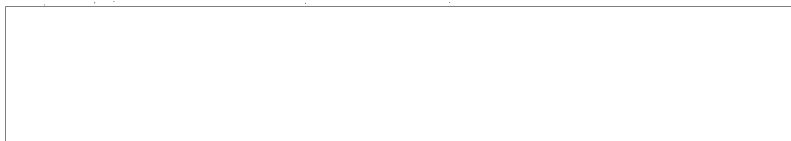
JORDAN



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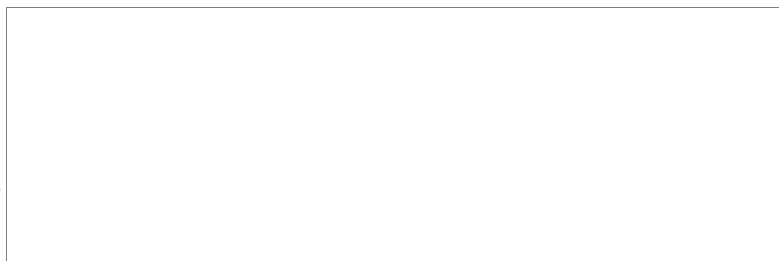


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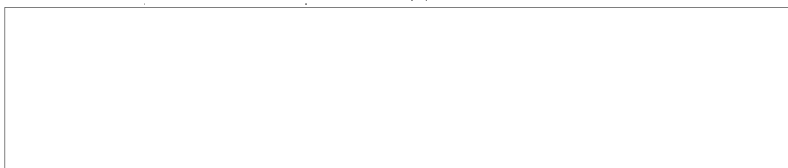
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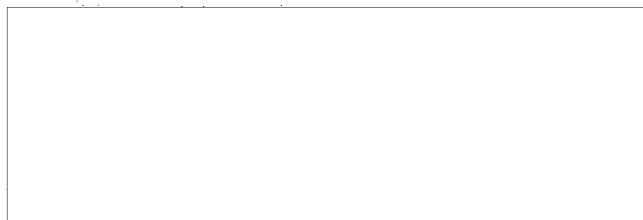
CHILE



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NOTES

North Vietnam: [REDACTED]

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USSR: Moscow's main concern during the first ten days of the preparatory meeting for a Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe has been to keep the talks moving smoothly and rapidly. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Soviet delegates have sought assiduously to establish friendly working relations with the Western delegations. Ambassador Mendelevich, for example, has sought out the US delegation for frequent consultations. [REDACTED]

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USSR-Cuba: [REDACTED]

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Syria-Jordan: Syria had mixed motives for re-opening its borders with Jordan yesterday. In part, the action was intended to show new Arab unity in the face of Israeli raids on Syria, and in part it was in response to pressure from other Arab states whose economies had been hurt. The frontiers--including air routes--had been closed since July 1971 as a gesture of Syrian sympathy for the fedayeen, who had been virtually eliminated by Jordanian forces. There has been no suggestion that Jordan will return a quid pro quo, and particularly no indication the fedayeen would be welcomed back to Jordan.

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